



# AG DIGEST



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## Highlights

**Farm Labor  
Cold Storage  
Agricultural Prices  
Poultry  
Livestock Slaughter**

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## **HIRED WORKERS & WAGE RATES BOTH UP 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

There were 1.29 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 1999, up 3 percent from a year ago. There were 989,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 296,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 12 percent of the October hired workforce compared to 11 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$7.83 per hour during the October 1999 survey week, up 23 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.31 per hour, up 16 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$7.43 per hour compared with \$7.28 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 16 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 42.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 42.7 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in Florida, Northern Plains (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. In Florida, harvesting of field crops and planting of vegetables were active before Hurricane Irene arrived at the end of the survey week. Favorable weather conditions during the survey week in the Northern Plains, Corn Belt I, and Lake regions allowed farmers and ranchers to harvest crops, plant winter wheat, till soils, move cattle from summer pastures, and haul hay in preparation for winter.

The largest declines in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in California, Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. Rainfall over most of the Southeast region during the survey week slowed harvest of crops. In California, worker numbers returned to more normal levels as compared to last year. Additional workers were needed last October to harvest late developing crops caused by the El Nino weather pattern. Cotton harvest in Mountain III continued behind last year's pace due to a late start in the spring.

The 1999 annual average for the Nation's self employed, unpaid, and hired workers were 1.56 million, 490,000, and 929,000, respectively. The self employed, unpaid, and hired worker annual averages were up from last year at 5, 6, and 6 percent, respectively.

The 1999 U. S. hired worker annual average wage rate was \$7.77, up 4 percent from the 1998 annual average wage rate of \$7.47. The Field and Livestock worker combined annual average wage rate was \$7.22, up 3 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$6.98.

## **FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF OCTOBER 10-16, 1999**

| Item                                       | NE II <sup>1</sup> | U. S. |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| <i>Thousands</i>                           |                    |       |
| Farm Employment                            |                    |       |
| Hired Workers . . . . .                    | 37                 | 989   |
| Expected to be Employed . . . . .          |                    |       |
| 150 Days or More . . . . .                 | 29                 | 665   |
| 149 Days or Less . . . . .                 | 8                  | 324   |
| <i>Hours</i>                               |                    |       |
| Hours Worked                               |                    |       |
| Hired . . . . .                            | 39.5               | 42.5  |
| <i>Dollars per Hour</i>                    |                    |       |
| Wage Rates for                             |                    |       |
| All Hired Workers <sup>2 3</sup> . . . . . | 7.55               | 7.83  |
| Type of Worker                             |                    |       |
| Field & Livestock Combined . . . . .       | 7.00               | 7.33  |
| Field . . . . .                            | 7.22               | 7.31  |
| Livestock . . . . .                        | 6.60               | 7.43  |

<sup>1</sup> NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. <sup>2</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the value are not included in the wage rates. <sup>3</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

# **PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, NOVEMBER 1999**

| Commodity                    | Unit | Pennsylvania |          |                       | United States |          |                       |
|------------------------------|------|--------------|----------|-----------------------|---------------|----------|-----------------------|
|                              |      | Nov 1998     | Oct 1999 | Nov 1999 <sup>1</sup> | Nov 1998      | Oct 1999 | Nov 1999 <sup>1</sup> |
| Dollars                      |      |              |          |                       |               |          |                       |
| Corn .....                   | Bu.  | 2.33         | 2.37     | 2.44                  | 1.93          | 1.69     | 1.72                  |
| Wheat, Winter .....          | Bu.  | -            | -        | -                     | 2.76          | 2.47     | 2.36                  |
| Oats .....                   | Bu.  | 1.30         | 1.55     | 1.60                  | 1.10          | 1.07     | 1.08                  |
| Barley .....                 | Bu.  | -            | -        | -                     | 2.05          | 1.96     | 2.13                  |
| Hay, All .....               | Ton  | 114.00       | 137.00   | 138.00                | 81.40         | 73.70    | 74.00                 |
| Alfalfa .....                | Ton  | 130.00       | 151.00   | 153.00                | 84.40         | 76.00    | 77.30                 |
| Other .....                  | Ton  | 101.00       | 125.00   | 125.00                | 72.00         | 64.70    | 64.80                 |
| Apples, Fresh Use .....      | Cwt. | 24.00        | 20.00    | 23.00                 | 17.50         | 23.50    | 23.30                 |
| Potatoes .....               | Cwt. | 6.35         | 6.45     | 6.65                  | 4.86          | 4.84     | 5.37                  |
| Cows, Slaughter .....        | Cwt. | 31.30        | 35.30    | 35.10                 | 29.70         | 33.80    | 33.00                 |
| Steers & Heifers .....       | Cwt. | 58.40        | 64.40    | 64.00                 | 62.30         | 70.10    | 70.80                 |
| Calves .....                 | Cwt. | 82.10        | 109.00   | 105.00                | 77.50         | 91.90    | 91.60                 |
| Barrows & Gilts .....        | Cwt. | 17.30        | 33.70    | 32.50                 | 19.00         | 34.70    | 33.40                 |
| Sows .....                   | Cwt. | 15.80        | 21.40    | 24.00                 | 15.50         | 24.70    | 24.30                 |
| Turkeys .....                | Lb.  | .430         | .460     | .460                  | .438          | .454     | .456                  |
| Broilers .....               | Lb.  | .390         | .331     | .392                  | .413          | .335     | .374                  |
| Eggs <sup>2</sup> .....      | Doz. | .660         | .400     | .580                  | .610          | .321     | .490                  |
| Milk, Fluid Grade .....      | Cwt. | 18.00        | 16.60    | -                     | 17.80         | 15.00    | 14.40                 |
| Manufactured Grade ..        | Cwt. | 17.40        | 11.30    | -                     | 17.30         | 12.60    | 11.30                 |
| All .....                    | Cwt. | 18.00        | 16.50    | 16.90                 | 17.80         | 15.00    | 14.40                 |
| Milk Cows <sup>3</sup> ..... | Head | -            | 1,380.00 | -                     | -             | 1,380.00 | -                     |

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2</sup> Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. <sup>3</sup> Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

## **PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES 2 POINTS**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 93 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.2 percent) from the October index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affect the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cotton, milk, cattle, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and lettuce. These marketing changes account for most of the November index increase. Higher prices for broilers, eggs, potatoes, and corn slightly offset price decreases for milk, soybeans, oranges, hogs, and lettuce.

Compared with November 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (6.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from November 1998 for milk, cotton, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, apples, and calves.

Food Grains: The November Food Grain Index, at 87, was unchanged from the previous month but 17 percent below November 1998. The November all wheat price, at \$2.54 per bushel, was down 4 cents from the October price and 41 cents below November 1998. A major factor in the decline was the lower prices received for poor quality durum wheat sold for livestock feed.

Feed Grains & Hay: The November index was 77, up 1.3 percent from last month but 10 percent below November 1998. The corn price, at \$1.72 per bushel, was up 3 cents from October but 21 cents below the November 1998 price. Expectations for 1999/2000 marketing year ending stocks of over 2 billion bushels are keeping prices low. The all hay price, at \$74.00 per ton, was up 30 cents from last month but \$7.40 below November 1998. The increase was mostly due to a \$1.30 per ton increase in the alfalfa hay price.

## **U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS<sup>1</sup>**

| Commodity                          | Unit | Nov 1998 | Oct 1999 | Nov 1999 |
|------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Dollars</i>                     |      |          |          |          |
| Wheat .....                        | Bu.  | 9.57     | 9.68     | 9.78     |
| Corn .....                         | Bu.  | 6.50     | 6.62     | 6.69     |
| Tobacco,<br>PA Seedleaf, Type 41   | Lb.  | 2.82     | 2.98     | 3.01     |
| All Milk, Sold to Plants           | Cwt. | 29.10    | 30.50    | 30.80    |
| Wool .....                         | Lb.  | 4.09     | 1.93     | 1.95     |
| Barley .....                       | Bu.  | 5.85     | 5.92     | 5.98     |
| Oats .....                         | Bu.  | 3.59     | 3.46     | 3.50     |
| Potatoes .....                     | Cwt. | 12.70    | 13.30    | 13.40    |
| Rye .....                          | Bu.  | 4.92     | 5.04     | 5.09     |
| Soybeans .....                     | Bu.  | 14.00    | 14.00    | 14.10    |
| Apples, For Fresh Use <sup>2</sup> | Lb.  | .432     | .448     | .453     |
| Beef Cattle .....                  | Cwt. | 150.00   | 152.00   | 153.00   |
| Calves .....                       | Cwt. | 191.00   | 193.00   | 195.00   |
| Hogs .....                         | Cwt. | 102.00   | 102.00   | 103.00   |
| Lambs .....                        | Cwt. | 153.00   | 156.00   | 158.00   |
| Sheep .....                        | Cwt. | 62.40    | 65.10    | 65.80    |
| Eggs .....                         | Doz. | 1.43     | 1.49     | 1.51     |
| Turkeys, Live .....                | Lb.  | .871     | .890     | .900     |

<sup>1</sup> Parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for month indicated. These parity prices are the legally applicable parity prices for the following calendar month. <sup>2</sup> Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for apples for Washington and Oregon, equivalent first delivery point returns for California, and price at point of first sale for other states.

## **COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS, OCT 31, 1999**

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 7,091,000 bushels on October 31, 1999, compared to 6,019,000 bushels on October 31, 1998. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 2,067,000; Golden Delicious with 1,511,000; and Red Delicious, 1,258,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 297,822,000 pounds on October 31, 1999, compared to 252,798,000 pounds on October 31, 1998. Pear stocks in cold storage increased from previous year's stocks of 1,305,000 pounds to 1,609,000 pounds on October 31, 1999.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 1999 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, chicken, pork, and fruit. Total frozen pork stocks, at 425 million pounds, broke the previous record October high of 412 million pounds set in 1998. Likewise, October 1999 stocks of chicken, at 829 million pounds, also broke the previous record October high of 619 million pounds set in 1998. Cooler stocks of peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 2 percent from September 1999, but were 4 percent below October 1998. Frozen pork stocks

were 1 percent below last month, but were up 3 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies increased 17 percent from last month and were 37 percent above the October 1998 stocks. Total frozen poultry supplies were down 11 percent from last month, but were 3 percent above last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were down 7 percent from last month, but were 34 percent above October 1998. Total pounds of turkey in freezers decreased 17 percent from last month and were 25 percent below last year.

## **STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES**

| Commodity                    | Oct 31, 1998 | Sep 30, 1999 | Oct 31, 1999 |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>(000) Lbs.</i>            |              |              |              |
| Butter . . . . .             | 31,164       | 71,473       | 59,864       |
| Cheese, Total Natural . . .  | 522,712      | 652,661      | 622,740      |
| Eggs, Frozen . . . . .       | 9,031        | 9,482        | 9,821        |
| Poultry, Total Frozen . . .  | 1,282,706    | 1,496,963    | 1,326,926    |
| Chicken . . . . .            | 618,882      | 894,615      | 828,740      |
| Turkeys . . . . .            | 658,732      | 596,358      | 492,826      |
| Fruits, Frozen . . . . .     | 1,279,558    | 1,135,944    | 1,313,311    |
| Fruit Juices, Frozen . . . . | 1,878,924    | 1,796,499    | 1,526,578    |
| Vegetables, Total Frozen . . | 2,587,460    | 2,440,833    | 2,582,728    |
| Potatoes, Total Frozen . . . | 1,340,969    | 1,235,546    | 1,311,193    |
| Meats, Total Frozen . . . .  | 794,919      | 746,279      | 762,750      |
| Beef, Total Frozen . . . .   | 358,231      | 294,369      | 318,203      |
| Pork, Total Frozen . . . .   | 411,885      | 430,585      | 424,811      |

## **PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, OCTOBER 1999**

| Variety                      | October 31, 1998          |      |            |       |       | October 31, 1999          |      |            |       |       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------|------------|-------|-------|---------------------------|------|------------|-------|-------|
|                              | Fresh Market <sup>1</sup> |      | Processing |       | Total | Fresh Market <sup>1</sup> |      | Processing |       | Total |
|                              | Reg.                      | C.A. | Reg.       | C.A.  |       | Reg.                      | C.A. | Reg.       | C.A.  |       |
| (1,000) Bushels              |                           |      |            |       |       |                           |      |            |       |       |
| York . . . . .               | 14                        | 0    | 1,032      | 450   | 1,496 | 13                        | 1    | 1,469      | 584   | 2,067 |
| Stayman . . . . .            | 85                        | 27   | 83         | 0     | 195   | 78                        | 23   | 89         | 3     | 193   |
| Rome . . . . .               | 94                        | 84   | 606        | 308   | 1,092 | 77                        | 53   | 431        | 395   | 956   |
| Red Delicious . . . . .      | 407                       | 446  | 292        | 66    | 1,211 | 434                       | 490  | 243        | 91    | 1,258 |
| Golden Delicious . . . . .   | 112                       | 145  | 662        | 313   | 1,232 | 239                       | 151  | 674        | 447   | 1,511 |
| Jonathan . . . . .           | 6                         | 0    | 61         | 1     | 68    | 5                         | 0    | 73         | 0     | 78    |
| McIntosh . . . . .           | 56                        | 0    | 13         | 0     | 69    | 77                        | 18   | 4          | 11    | 110   |
| Cortland . . . . .           | 28                        | 0    | 12         | 0     | 40    | 29                        | 3    | 1          | 0     | 33    |
| Other <sup>2</sup> . . . . . | 145                       | 53   | 369        | 49    | 616   | 216                       | 112  | 455        | 102   | 885   |
| Total . . . . .              | 947                       | 755  | 3,130      | 1,187 | 6,019 | 1,168                     | 851  | 3,439      | 1,633 | 7,091 |

<sup>1</sup> Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. <sup>2</sup> Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

## **APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, OCTOBER, 31, 1999**

| Commodity                       | All Warehouse Stocks |                    |                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|                                 | October 31, 1998     | September 30, 1999 | October 31, 1999 |
| <b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>             |                      |                    |                  |
| <i>(1,000) Lbs.</i>             |                      |                    |                  |
| APPLES:                         |                      |                    |                  |
| Regular Storage . . . . .       | 171,234              | 53,046             | 193,494          |
| Controlled Atmosphere . . . . . | 81,564               | 24,486             | 104,328          |
| Total Apples . . . . .          | 252,798              | 77,532             | 297,822          |
| PEARS:                          |                      |                    |                  |
| Bartletts . . . . .             | 52                   | 271                | 9                |
| Other Varieties . . . . .       | 1,253                | 2,814              | 1,600            |
| Total Pears . . . . .           | 1,305                | 3,085              | 1,609            |
| <b>UNITED STATES</b>            |                      |                    |                  |
| APPLES:                         |                      |                    |                  |
| Regular Storage . . . . .       | 2,317,691            | 946,647            | 2,206,464        |
| Controlled Atmosphere . . . . . | 4,478,605            | 1,888,114          | 3,968,193        |
| Total Apples . . . . .          | 6,796,296            | 2,834,761          | 6,174,657        |
| PEARS:                          |                      |                    |                  |
| Bartletts . . . . .             | 62,098               | 191,042            | 112,708          |
| Other Varieties . . . . .       | 450,664              | 360,591            | 399,310          |
| Total Pears . . . . .           | 512,762              | 551,633            | 512,018          |

# MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

| Item                          | Unit    | Pennsylvania |          |          | United States |          |          |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|
|                               |         | Oct 1998     | Sep 1999 | Oct 1999 | Oct 1998      | Sep 1999 | Oct 1999 |
| Layers .....                  | Thous.  | 22,274       | 22,477   | 22,809   | 314,847       | 322,394  | 325,069  |
| Eggs Per 100 Layers .....     | Number  | 2,267        | 2,251    | 2,315    | 2,157         | 2,128    | 2,192    |
| Eggs Produced .....           | Million | 505          | 506      | 528      | 6,791         | 6,860    | 7,126    |
| Chick Hatch-Egg Type .....    | Thous.  | 5,354        | 5,329    | 6,490    | 34,649        | 38,841   | 38,559   |
| Chick Hatch-Broiler Type .... | Thous.  | 12,317       | 12,357   | 11,944   | 693,189       | 699,664  | 697,787  |
| Poults Placed .....           | Thous.  | -            | -        | -        | 22,749        | 21,794   | 22,312   |

## EGG PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania egg production totaled 528 million during October, up 5 percent from the October 1998 production. There were an average of 228 million layers in the Commonwealth during the month, up 2 percent from October 1998. Average production per 100 layers was 2,315 eggs, compared with 2,267 eggs during the previous October.

Egg-type chicks hatched totaled 6.49 million in October, 21 percent more than the 5.35 million one year ago. Cumulative egg-type hatch for 1999 is 55.6 million, up 4 percent from the 53.6 million hatched during the same period last year. There were 11.9 million broiler-type chicks hatched last month, down 3 percent from October 1998. Cumulative broiler-type hatch for 1999, at 127.1 million chicks, was up less than one percent compared with the 126.6 million hatched January through October 1998.

Egg production in the United States totaled 7.13 billion during October 1999, up 5 percent from the 6.79 billion produced the previous year. The total number of layers during the month averaged 325.0 million, up 3 percent from the average number of layers during October 1998. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,192 eggs, up 2 percent from October 1998.

October egg-type chicks hatched totaled 38.6 million, up 11 percent from last year. Broiler-type hatch, at 698 million chicks, was up 1 percent from October 1998. Turkey eggs in incubators on November 1, 1999, totaled 28.9 million, up 5 percent from a year ago. A total of 22.3 million turkey poults were placed during October, down 2 percent from October 1998.

## COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, OCT 1999

| Specie        | Unit       | Pennsylvania | United States |
|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Red Meat Prod | Mil. Lbs.  | 110.6        | 4,001         |
| Cattle .....  | Thous. Hd. | 95.9         | 3,095         |
|               | Mil. Lbs.  | 119.0        | 3,755         |
| Calves .....  | Thous. Hd. | 16.1         | 105           |
|               | Mil. Lbs.  | 5.3          | 31            |
| Hogs .....    | Thous. Hd. | 230.1        | 8,947         |
|               | Mil. Lbs.  | 56.1         | 2,317         |
| Sheep & Lambs | Thous. Hd. | 5.4          | 305           |
|               | Mil. Lbs.  | .5           | 40            |

## COMMERCIAL RED MEAT SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in the state during October 1999 totaled 110.6 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 7 percent from October 1998. Beef production, at 119 million pounds live weight, was 6 percent more than October 1998. Total head slaughtered was 95,900, up 7 percent from last year. Live weight averaged 1,242 pounds, a decrease of 15 pounds from last year. Veal production was 5.3 million pounds live weight, 2 percent more than a year ago. Calf slaughter of 16,100 head was down 6 percent; average live weight increased 27 pounds to 332 pounds. Pork production was 56.1 million pounds live weight, up 9 percent from October 1998. Total head slaughtered was 230,100, up 7 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 5 pounds to 244 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 510,000 pounds live weight, down 2 percent. The number slaughtered was 5,400, up 6 percent from October of last year. The average live weight decreased 9 pounds to 94 pounds.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9405

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STATISTICS SERVICE

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL

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